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tion, on the River Darling, the mean temperature for twenty-four days, from January 1 to January 25, was  $120^{\circ}$  in the shade. The cause of the protracted hot spell was the persistence of monsoonal conditions over the interior during the month, with weak gradients and light winds, there being no depressions of sufficient energy to drive the cool southerly winds inland.

THE seventh annual bibliographical number (for 1897) of the *Annales de Géographie* contains the usual short notes on climatological and meteorological publications issued during that year.

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#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### ON INSPIRATION.

THE curious phenomenon of trance, voluntary or involuntary, plays the leading rôle in the ethnology of religions. In it all faiths have their origins, and by it most are sustained. A phase of it is known to psychologists as 'suggestion,' but this does not exhaust its aspects. Undoubtedly, both a physiology and a philosophy lie behind its superficial manifestations.

Some striking examples of it among the Slavic peoples are given in the 'Archiv für Religionswissenschaft' (Bd. I., Heft, 3) by Dr. Krauss, of Vienna. They are not surpassed by the Yogin of India or the high-priest of Nagualism, and have been studied by scientific observers.

That wholly exceptional, really inexplicable physical powers are obtained in the 'Yogâ' none can deny; and that equally anomalous psychical faculties are developed under its influence is just as certain. We still await a sympathetic, clear, unbiased study of this pregnant topic.

##### RELICS FROM THE ULOA VALLEY.

THE Uloa Valley opens into the Gulf of Honduras about Puerto Cortes. Attention

was first directed to its archæological remains about 1888 by a German planter, Mr. E. Wittkugel, who opened a number of mounds and made a large collection of pottery, etc. In 1896 and 1897 Mr. George Byron Gordon conducted explorations there under the direction of the Peabody Museum, Cambridge. His results have appeared in the *Memoirs of the Museum*, Vol. I., Nos. 4 and 5. It is amply illustrated, and presents a clear and succinct narrative of the work. The art-remains plainly show the influence of Mayan culture; but there is a residuum which, in the opinion of both Professor Putnam and Dr. Seler (whose report may be found in the 'Verhand. der Berliner Anthropol. Gesell.' 1898, p. 133), should be assigned to some other people.

In the same cover with Mr. Gordon's report on the Uloa Valley is his brief statement about cave exploration near Copan. The results were somewhat negative, not indicating extreme antiquity, though signs of a special art-development were not wanting.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A PRICE-LIST of the reprints of the papers of the late Professor E. D. Cope has been drawn up, and can be secured from Mrs. E. D. Cope, Haverford College, Haverford, Pa. Owing to Professor Cope's method of work and untimely death many of his important contributions to science exist only in these reprints, and the list should be secured by all those interested in paleontology, zoology and psychology.

WE are sorry to learn that the editor of *Natural Science* feels compelled to discontinue the editing of the journal after December. He is prepared to hand it over to any competent man of science who will relieve him of all responsibility and continue it as an independent journal. Students of the natural sciences are under very great obligations to the editor of *Natural Science*, whose desire to remain anonymous during the continuance of the journal